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February 13, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Sir/Madam:


I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the proposal by Norfolk Southern Railway Company to abandon rail service on a 3.7 mile section of right away located in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Although not located in my legislative district, this section of railway is crucial in plans to reinstate commuter rail service between Norristown, PA and Quakertown, PA. Should it be abandoned, the possibility of restoring commuter service in this area would be eliminated. (N.B. This is the only rail link that exists between Philadelphia and the Allentown/Bethlehem area.) The ultimate goal is to connect from Philadelphia through the Lehigh Valley to New York City. The continued maintenance of this section of railway is necessary to this goal.

Accordingly, I join with my colleagues in requesting that you further review the impact of the proposal to abandon rail service in the designated area, and ask you to consider keeping this line intact.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

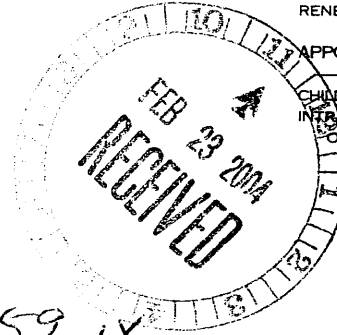

KATHARINE M. WATSON
144th Legislative District

KMW/mk

cc: Hon. Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Rick Santorum
Senator Robert Tomlinson
Bucks County Commissioners
William D. Rickett, Exec. Dir., Bucks County TMA
Robert White, Exec. Dir., Bucks County Redevelopment Authority



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